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ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT IN USSR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

In 1946, Stalin declared that the USSR was to develop its industrial capacity to produce annually 50 million tons of iron, 60 million tons of steel, 500 million tons of coal, and 60 million tons of oil. Elektricheskoye Stantsii of October 1952 set forth that a corresponding output of electric power for this level of industrial production would be 250 billion kilowatt-hours. The Fifth Five-Year Plan, it continued, will bring the country much nearer to this goal. The planned 70 percent increase in the industrial output requires an 80 percent increase in the electric power output over the 1950 figures. (1)

In his speech at the 19th Communist Party Congress, Zhimerin the Minister of Electric Power Stations, said that the Kakhovka GES, now under construction, will be completed one year ahead of schedule. He also stated that if the capital investments for building hydroelectric power stations in 1950 are taken as 100 percent, the 1952 expenditure would be 132 percent and would reach 300 percent in 1955. Mechanization at the construction sites in 1952 was as follows: earthwork - 92 percent; concrete mixing - 98 percent; placing concrete - 93 percent; assembling steel structures - 86.4 percent.

Zhimerin reported that several large thermal electric power stations are under construction in the Donbass and Dnepr regions, and that recently a large one was put into operation in the southern Urals. Its capacity will increase four times during the Five-Year plan, he said. Several TES are being enlarged, he continued, and new ones are under construction in the central Urals; a number of them are being built in Moskovskaya, Ivanovskaya, and Tul'skaya oblasts. The Kamskaya GES will be completed in 1954, he added, and the Mingechaurskaya GES will be put into operation during the first half of 1953. Construction of the Bukhtarninskaya GES will be start in 1953, he stated.

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Since capacity of the Varzobskaya GES in Tadzhik SSR is not sufficient to take care of the needs, Zhimerin added building of another GES has become a necessity.

In connection with electrification of the Siberian Trunk Railroad, Zhimerin explained that the electric power stations in Novosibirskaya Oblast are being enlarged and a new GES is being built there. He said that the ministry is also starting construction of a GES on the Angara River. It is estimated that the river's water power is sufficient to produce 60 billion kilowatt-hours per annum, he stated. (8)

Trud of 30 September 1952 warned that increasing the output of electric power alone does not insure its full uninterrupted supply of the power to all the branches of the national economy; it is also necessary to economize the consumption of electric power. (12)

According to preliminary information available, Promyshlennaya Energetika, No 1, January 1952, notes, USSR industries and transport saved over 1,100,000,000 kilowatt-hours of electric power and about 700,000 megacalories of heat in 1951. The number of interruptions in the power supply to industrial enterprises due to breakdowns was reduced 13 percent, the periodical stated. (2)

At the end of the postwar Five-Year Plan, according to V. Gerashchenko, in a book published in 1951, 20 percent of all the electric power produced in USSR was used for industrial technological processes. (3) Now, about five eighths of it is used by industrial enterprises, according to Elektrichestvo, No 10, October 1952. (4)

In his book on electrification in agriculture, S. Matskevich declared that the number of kilowatt-hours per industrial workman increased twice between 1928 and 1937. Between 1933 and 1937 it increased from 2,110 to 4,370 kilowatt-hours, he said.

He added that in 1951, 90 percent of the electric power generated by the establishments of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations was produced by GES or thermal electric power stations burning local fuel. (5)

According to Promyshlennaya Energetika, No 1, January 1952, from 60 to 70 percent of the electric power consumed by a coal mine is used for manufacturing compressed air, for ventilation, and for pumping water. In some mines, it continued, it runs up to 80 percent because of the imperfections in the setup, leaks, etc. (2)

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, Matskevich has said, 20,000 engineers, technicians and over 100,000 electricians were trained to serve rural electric power installations. (5)

The 10 September 1952 issue of Izvestiya states that one blooming mill installation has a number of electric motors with a total capacity of 30,000 kilowatts. (6)

One kilowatt-hour of electric power is required to extract 170 kilograms of gasoline from crude oil, according to Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 25 September 1952. (7)

The 25 September 1952 issue of Kommunist states that the entire Volkhovskaya GES is now automatically controlled with the recent installation of the necessary devices completed. (9)

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The Tsimlyanskaya GES has four turbines of 40,000 kilowatts each, according to Nauka i Zhizn', No 8 August 1952. (10)

Pravda Ukrainy, 1 October 1952 states that since the plan for electric power production by the Dnepro GES during the third quarter of 1952 has been exceeded. the Dnepr, Donbass, and Kr. voy Rog regions will receive additional power. The installation of devices for the remote control of the GES has been completed. (11)

According to Elektricheskiye Stantsii, No 10, October 1952, a ukase of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR bestowed the title "Hero of Socialist Labor" on the following engineers, who are builders of the Volga-Don Canal and the irrigation system based on the canal: A. P. Aleksandrov, V. A. Barabanov, S. Ya. Zhuk, G. A. Russo, N. A. Filimonov, and A. A. Shcherbinin. (1)

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